

A Tribute to My Mother

Mother...What a wonderful and descriptive word! In this word is the summation of all the love, commitment and duty in the world. In this one word, we find the true beauty of life. In this word, we find the most precious position to be held by human kind. As I began to contemplate what you mean to me, Mother, I found myself grasping for the right words. Forgive me for not telling you often enough how precious you have been, and are today, in my life.



Only one life, but oh, how it counts! Without you, I would have no life, for you would not have given me birth. Without you, I would have no song, for you have taught me how to sing. Without you, I would have gone astray, for you have taught me the truth of God's way. Mother, in other words, my life would simply not be complete without you. Forgive me for not telling you often enough how much I appreciate you.

There you were, as no other, for only you could be my Mother. When friends forsook me, and my heart was broken over some small thing...There you were, my loving Mother. Mother, thank you for being a shield to us children in those times when you and dad were encountering rough storms in the ministry. You knew that our minds and emotions were not ready at that young age to face the disappointments that people can produce. Thank you for being an example of courage, strength and faith. Forgive me for not telling you often enough a simple "Thanks."

How I wish I could reclaim the years, and turn back the hands of time. But, those days are forever gone. The days of yesterday are cherished memories of a Godly home where mom and dad loved each other and set the example for us children. Although I thought I would never say it, I actually miss those days when we worked the garden together. It was in those duties that you taught us the responsibility of work. Mother, thank you for being willing to labor so hard at canning, pickling, freezing and cooking. Of course, some of my greatest kitchen memories are at Christmas time. You always "pulled out the stops" for a great and festive Christmas. I can still smell the frosting for the teacakes. I can taste the potato candy, chocolate bonbon and all the rest! Thank you for turning an ordinary house into a home! Forgive me for the times with I griped and complained about the things you had me do around the house.

Every child was loved equally in our home. Thank you for having enough love to go around. Of course, the greatest example of love was demonstrated in yours and dad's commitment to each other. Because of you, I saw how to build a marriage that would survive the ages of time and the storms of life. You showed us how to love even when you were upset. My greatest blessing in your marriage is that you gave us a home where we never had to wonder, "Will they divorce?" You and dad taught us that marriage is a lifetime commitment, and you stuck with it until death did you part. Thank you for demonstrating unconditional love, and what a Godly marriage is. Forgive me for telling you often enough, **"I Love You!"**

Returning to yesterday is not possible, and tomorrow may not come. So, I take this opportunity today to say, **"THANKS FOR BEING MY MOTHER!"** You will never know the impact your teaching and training will have on your descendants for generations to come. I love you and am eternally grateful to God for your role in my life.